

filed as provided in Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 97-33658 Filed 12-24-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP97-563-001]

Michigan Gas Storage Company; Notice of Petition To Amend

December 19, 1997.

Take notice that on November 25, 1997, Michigan Gas Storage Company (MGSCo), 212 West Michigan Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49201, filed with the Commission, pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act (NGA), a petition to amend the order issued on September 19, 1997, in Docket No. CP97-563-000 to slightly modify the construction authorized in the Cranberry Lake Storage Field, Clare County, Michigan, all as more fully set forth in the application for amendment, which is open to the public for inspection.

Michigan Gas Storage Company (MGSCo) notified the Commission on November 25, 1997, that MGSCo has now developed an alternative, functionally equivalent piping configuration for the Cranberry Lake Storage Field in Clare County, Michigan, which varies slightly from what the Director, Office of Pipeline Regulation authorized on September 19, 1997, in Docket No. CP97-563-000. Specifically, MGSCo states that the existing 6-inch diameter (approximately 125 feet) and 4-inch diameter (approximately 625 feet) pipe on Lateral 63 East between wells C715 and C350 is in good condition and does not need to be replaced with the originally proposed 2-inch diameter pipe. This segment of the pipe only required minor repairs to the pipe coating.

Instead, MGSCo now proposes to cut and remove the 1,690 feet of existing 6-inch diameter pipe between wells C353 and C715 on Lateral 63 East, rather than replacing it with the 8-inch diameter pipe authorized in the September 19,

1997, order. MGSCo states that it can install the pig launcher at the eastern cut end of this segment. Gas would then flow westward from the storage wells along this section of lateral through 8-inch diameter pipe.

MGSCo also states that gas flowing through the existing 6-inch and 4-inch diameter segment (east of the 1,690 feet of removed pipe) on Lateral 63 East would flow northward through the existing 4-inch diameter tie-line between Laterals 62 East and 63 East. MGSCo further states that these minor modifications could save \$80,000 in material and labor costs, as well as avoid the cutting of trees in a 15-foot by 300-foot temporary work area.

Any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to said petition to amend should on or before December 29, 1997, file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20426, a motion to intervene or a protest in accordance with the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 384.214 or 385.211) and the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.10). All protests filed with the Commission will be considered by it in determining the appropriate action to be taken but will not serve to make the protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party to a proceeding or to participate as a party in any hearing therein must file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-2-000]

ANR Pipeline Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Kent County Replacement Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

December 19, 1997.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the replacement of about 0.96 mile of 22-inch-diameter pipeline proposed in

the Kent County Replacement Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Summary of the Proposed Project

ANR Pipeline Company (ANR) proposes to replace about 0.96 mile of 22-inch-diameter pipeline to maintain compliance with the U.S. Department of Transportation pipeline safety regulations. There would be no increase in the capacity of ANR's system as a result of this proposal. ANR seeks authority to construct and operate:

- 0.96 mile of 22-inch-diameter replacement pipeline in Kent County, Michigan.

No nonjurisdictional facilities would be constructed as a result of this proposal.

The location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.²

Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 8.6 acres of land, including a 75-foot-wide construction right-of-way, additional temporary work spaces, and a staging area. Following construction, no new permanent right-of-way would be required. All of the right-of-way would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage

¹ ANR Pipeline Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

² The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the **Federal Register**. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.